



ONE HUMANITY SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

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Daily Sabah Centre for Policy Studies is an Istanbul-Ankara-based, non-profit institute which focuses on Turkey's vibrant socio-political landscape and its reflections and wider implications both at the regional and global levels.

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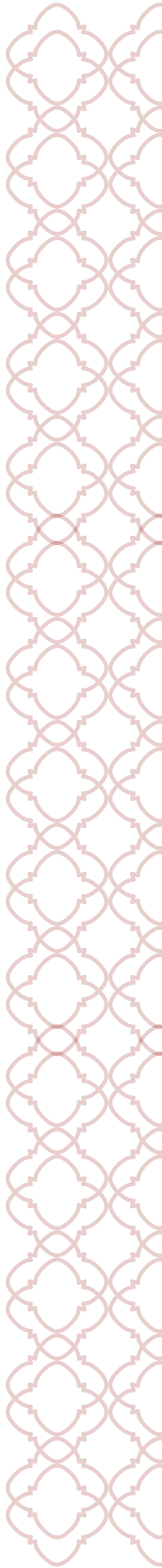


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INTRODUCTION

Since the start of the Syrian civil war, the number of refugees in Turkey has reached nearly 3 million. Out of these 3 million, 1,490,033 of them are children and 150,000 of them have been born in Turkey since the conflict began. It is estimated that the migration deal between the European Union and Turkey made earlier this year has actually brought the number of refugees in Turkey closer to 4 million if not more. While Turkey, a middle-income country, has spent more than \$10 billion on migrants, the international community has collectively contributed only \$455 million.

As a country shouldering the burden of a humanitarian catastrophe, Turkey hosted the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) organized by the United Nations on May 23-24. It was attended by 55 heads of state and government as well as representatives from 173 U.N. member states, as well as representatives from more than 180 countries and international organizations. The driving force behind the summit was Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's "Agenda for Humanity," which outlines five core responsibilities of the international community to prevent and end conflict, uphold the norms that safeguard humanity, leave no one behind, change people's lives, from delivering aid to ending need by reducing risk and vulnerability for those living on the margins of existence and invest in humanity.

According to U.N. figures, 125 billion people around the world need urgent humanitarian aid. This is a crisis that needs to be shared and that can only be mitigated through comprehensive, collaborative solutions that depend on the participation of all global leaders. From Sudan to Ukraine, humanitarian crises are growing in scale and becoming more frequent. These are global problems that are only amenable to global solutions; solutions that depend on the contributions and efforts of different actors from all around the world. For this reason, the WHS brought together heads of state, national and international aid organizations, representatives from the private sector, leaders of local communities, policymakers, politicians, activists and academics. The diverse

group of leaders engaged in comprehensive, multi-stakeholder meetings to discuss the need to go beyond simple humanitarian assistance to tackle some of the largest humanitarian challenges facing the world today. They discussed the need to address root causes of crises, deepen diplomacy to prevent and resolve conflict, and coordinate development and humanitarian efforts.

The international humanitarian system desperately needs a revolution from within. Obviously, the current system does not sufficiently respond to the needs of people today. As President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said in reference to the U.N. Security Council (UNSC): "The current system remains insufficient in the face of the urgent problems of humanity. Only certain countries are shouldering the burden of the system which fails to bring solutions to problems. Everyone should assume responsibility to share this burden. The world is bigger than five."

The failure of these five powers that comprise the UNSC – the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia and China – to find solutions that address today's humanitarian crises has painfully proved once again that the fate of humanity cannot be left to these five countries alone. Global solutions to global problems must be devised by all countries and international actors that share equal responsibility and all have a vested interest in creating sustainable, inclusive solutions that bring the world together.

In order to address humanitarian crises faster and more efficiently, we must prioritize international cooperation to service those in need regardless of religion or ethnicity. Discrimination must end immediately, and everyone who requires humanitarian support must be assisted by the entire world no matter where they come from or what religion they ascribe to. In this context, it is significant that the WHS convened in a country like Turkey, which has shown incredible humanitarian compassion in the past. We hope that the outcomes of this summit will transform the present system into a more efficient one, and this volume aims to present the articles published in Daily Sabah during the WHS.

Daily Sabah Centre for Policy Studies



ONE HUMANITY, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT: ONE HUMANITY, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN

President of Turkey

The World Humanitarian Summit, the first United Nations conference in history geared toward reforming the traditional humanitarian and development system, will take place in Istanbul on May 23-24, 2016. The event, proudly hosted by the Presidency of Turkey, represents a historic effort to overcome present challenges and take necessary steps to render the system capable of dealing with future problems. More importantly, it is an opportunity to send a message to oppressors worldwide that the international community remains committed to making the world a better place.

For the first time in history, politicians, aid workers, donors, the business community, government agencies and those affected by crises will join forces in Istanbul to find effective solutions to a common problem.

The title of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's report for the World Humanitarian Summit speaks volumes about why the organization decided to hold this historic conference in Turkey: One humanity, shared responsibility.

Turkey is the origin of idea that fellow human beings are one and the same. Thirteenth-century Muslim poet Jalaluddin Muhammed Rumi, who remains a symbol of tolerance, compassion and goodness today, spent a significant part of his life in Konya. His resting place draws in millions of visitors every year, who recall his eternal words: "Come, come, whoever you

are. Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving. It doesn't matter."

Like Rumi and other advocates of one humanity, Turkey's current leadership appreciates the importance of helping fellow humans. Today, Turkish humanitarian and development workers remain active in more than 140 countries on five continents. Every year, Ankara spends more than \$6.4 billion to feed the hungry, heal the wounds of conflict and disaster and make it absolutely clear that the world will be a better place tomorrow if we just try.

In recent years, the Turkish flag has become a symbol of hope for earthquake survivors in Nepal, impoverished farmers in Somalia and millions of Syrians escaping one of the most violent conflicts in recent memory, among others.

In 2015, Turkey became the largest refugee-hosting country by taking in nearly 3 million Syrian victims of war. At this time, Ankara provides free housing to some 280,000 Syrian nationals at 26 temporary housing centers equipped with hospitals, schools and sports facilities. Since 2011, Turkish doctors performed several thousand surgeries on Syrian refugees, who are eligible for free healthcare under the temporary protection status. Meanwhile, Turkey considers the education of Syrian children a key priority. At this time, a total of 330,000 Syrian refugee children, 80,000 of them in refugee camps, have been brought back to school. We aim to push this



number up to 460,000 by the end of 2016 and reach all of them by 2017.

At the same time, Turkey shares the secretary-general's concerns about shared responsibilities.

In 1624, English poet and cleric John Donne coined the phrase "No man is an island." In today's globalizing world, where opportunities and threats alike extend beyond national borders, his message rings truer than ever. Yet most countries are left alone to deal with the consequences of regional and global problems.

Turkey, for one, has been experiencing this issue for several years. To address the humanitarian crisis in Syria, Ankara spent more than \$10 billion on humanitarian relief at home and abroad. Turkey-based nongovernmental organizations and others contributed a similar amount to people in need. During the same period, the international community's contributions amounted to less than \$500 million. In other words, the Turkish government has matched each dollar with 20.

Across the Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, weak states with limited means shoulder the burden of humanitarian crises as the world watches from afar. Where the international community is able to make an impact, the solutions are usually incomprehensive and incapable of promoting long-term change.

To address pressing problems and prepare for the future, we must develop an international mechanism with an eye on burden-sharing and a reform of the United Nations Security Council, whose structure played a destructive role in Syria and elsewhere.

At a time when humanity faces greater challenges than ever, the World Humanitarian Summit is no ordinary international event. It has the potential to be remembered as a turning point in history for millions of people around the world whose lives depend on the good will, intelligence and creativity of fellow humans. It could also be remembered as a missed opportunity by future generations, who won't be kind in their judgment if we fail them.

WHY WE NEED A \$1 BILLION CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

-STEPHEN O'BRIEN
-BØRGE BRENDE
-MARIE-CLAUDE BIBEAU
-ISABELLA LÖVIN
-KRISTIAN JENSEN
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** O'Brien, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator*
Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie
Jensen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Steinmeier, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany
Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Netherlands
Brende, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway
Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden

A decade ago, 32 million people were in need of urgent humanitarian assistance - today that number is over 125 million. Prolonged conflicts have displaced millions and more intense natural disasters are having a greater impact on people's livelihoods. Climate change, extreme poverty, water scarcity, food shortages, migration and epidemics require humanitarian organizations to help more people in more places. Last year, the humanitarian sector saw its largest ever funding gap of \$15 billion according to the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing. Behind these figures are the desperate realities of women, men and children struggling to survive. As the UN and its humanitarian partners work tirelessly to assist the most vulnerable, it is vital that resources are immediately available to save lives.

Ten years ago the U.N. General Assembly created the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) with one mission: to enable timely life-saving assistance to people affected by acute crises, rapid onset disasters, armed conflicts and forgotten emergencies. Since 2006, CERF has assisted millions of

people across 94 countries through almost \$4.5 billion in grants. Each year on average, the Fund enables partners to reach 20 million people with health services, 10 million with nourishing food, eight million with clean water and sanitation, 5 million with livelihood support, four million with protection, and one million with shelter.

Whilst the world's humanitarian needs have dramatically increased, the resources available from CERF have remained almost unchanged. Each year the Fund aims to raise \$450 million for humanitarian response. To ensure that CERF keeps pace with the escalating needs and remains an effective tool able to meet the current scale, complexity and range of crises, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has called to double the CERF to \$1 billion.

A larger CERF would better address today's humanitarian needs. It would have a greater impact while still maintaining its focus, scope and speed. During a crisis, time lost means lives lost. CERF's advantage is that it is able to respond quickly. Funds for critical life-saving operations can be made available within

hours, as was the case in the aftermath of the earthquakes in Ecuador, Nepal and Haiti.

Today CERF has become indispensable to global humanitarian response. It provides U.N. organizations and their partners with flexible and timely funds to kick start relief efforts immediately. CERF projects are based on impartial and neutral assessments of needs conducted by humanitarian teams on the ground. The funds flow to a vast network of partners, supporting a coordinated response. With CERF funds, responders are able to quickly procure and deliver large amounts of relief supplies for the most vulnerable.

In many cases, CERF intervenes before a crisis makes the headlines. In March 2014, when many responders had not yet launched operations to address the Ebola crisis, CERF provided seed funding to trigger the U.N. response. And as the situation deteriorated, CERF supported vital aspects of the response such as the humanitarian air service, without which humanitarian operations would have largely come to a standstill. With a stronger financial base CERF could provide more funding in such emergencies.

Since the war broke out in Syria, CERF has provided more than \$200 million to support humanitarian action across the region filling important gaps in the international response and improving the living conditions of refugees. CERF is also on the frontline of the response to the current global El Niño

phenomenon. Since 2015, it has allocated more than \$119 million for critical life-saving action in 19 countries affected by El Niño. For both crises this funding is only the beginning of what is needed. Humanitarian leaders in countries impacted are requesting more CERF support but the CERF cannot deliver more at its current capacity. A \$1 billion CERF is urgently needed to have a greater impact and to strengthen principled humanitarian assistance.

The Fund works to ensure maximum impact for every dollar invested by continuously improving its efficiency and effectiveness. As such, CERF is a crucial part of the humanitarian eco-system which is ultimately accountable to the tens of millions people affected by crises. The Fund's purpose is closely aligned with the call for change and a new way of working made by the U.N. Secretary-General in his Agenda for Humanity. This is the crux of what will be discussed in Istanbul during the first World Humanitarian Summit on May 23-24.

Established as a 'Fund by all, for all', CERF has received broad support from 125 member states and private donors. However, the top ten donors have provided 87 per cent of the Fund's resources. If CERF is to become a \$1 billion fund, more countries and corporations must actively participate and significantly increase their support. New contributors and larger contributions, coupled with innovative financing solutions are needed for the CERF to effectively respond to today's global humanitarian needs. Many lives depend on it.

COLLECTIVE ACTION NEEDED TO COMBAT HUMANITARIAN CRISES

**DR. ABDUSALAM
H. OMER**

*Minister of
Foreign
Affairs and
Investment
Promotion for
the Federal
Republic of
Somalia*

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to be held in Istanbul in late May 2016 will certainly be an important turning point in the way we collectively address the challenges facing humanity. Ankara and the U.N. have organized this historic meeting together, at a time when many humanitarian crises and international challenges have caused international friction and forced the rethinking of how to address the root causes of these tragedies.

CAUSES

Humanitarian crises are becoming more frequent in our world, as a result of both man-made and natural causes. In Somalia both combine, as a result of civil war and drought together creates complex crises, which are often managed ineffectively by all stakeholders. These failures in turn make the situation worse, to the detriment of society and can generate cycles of humanitarian, political and environmental crises.

Today in Syria, Libya, Yemen and many other places across the world, war, violence, terrorism and fear are driving people from their homes and into refugee camps in unprecedented numbers. Ankara must be commended for its leadership and generosity in welcoming and resettling many of the desperate and exhausted Syrian refugees in camps,

and allowing them access to the labor market without prejudice. In addition, many EU member states, particularly Germany, have led the way in campaigning and actually resettling Syrian refugees; this is an effort which deserves recognition and support.

In a globalizing and economically competitive world, there are new environmental challenges and risks which are now causing desertification, floods and poverty. The number of refugees will continue to increase, if urgent preventative actions are not taken early and collectively to combat these severe and mutually reinforcing problems.

SOLUTIONS

Humanitarian crises, whatever their root causes, create misery, human insecurity and international tension. These crises destroy lives, communities and entire countries, of which Syria is just one that has reached the media headlines.

Given the above, it is important that the WHS brings together all stakeholders to think of the way forward for the humanitarian action which the world needs today and tomorrow. Even more importantly, it is vital to identify and implement policies which will ensure sustainable development for all by examining the root causes, so that these crises, where

possible, could be avoided in the first place.

Coming from a country where some parts of the year there are floods, and others there are droughts, humanitarian action needs to become innovative, locally-designed and led, and it must be focused on imparting knowledge and skills as the basis for investment, not just aid, so that progress is durable. Alongside governments, international NGOs and consultants, the local people most affected must own and lead the response and prevention processes so that these crises are not repeated, as many are today because of a lack of an appropriate, effective approach.

Indeed the cost of humanitarian disasters is emotionally immeasurable and we sympathize deeply with the most affected and offer support through their most difficult hours. However, sympathy is not enough. In financial terms the requirements are rising at a time when in some cases international contributions are either stagnant or falling due to the effects of the global financial crisis. A way to address this is to permanently build in investment promotion and economic development support into assistance projects and packages. International donors and partners should also explore providing countries affected by humanitarian crises with preferential trade treatment for a period of time to stabilize the economy. This is likely to lead to a much quicker turn around for affected countries, as skills will be maintained and competitive industries will be saved from destruction by migration and total sectoral collapse. Donors will also benefit as a result of the reduced number of refugees and the official direct assistance which they will have to commit to pay.

Preventing humanitarian crises requires partnership, without which it is not possible.



Humanitarian crises require more than just meetings to resolve: They need global leadership to prevent conflict and agree on international actions and policies to confront the damaging and painfully repetitive root causes such as conflict, injustice and poverty, to name but a few. National governments also need to strengthen public response and resilience, good governance and promote inclusive development and economic growth. Preventing humanitarian crises requires partnership, without which it is not possible.

The above does not always require new legislation and policies, as the agreed U.N. Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 encompass most of the peace and development-promoting commitments required to achieve these goals. All that remains now is sustained and committed action from us all to bring them to fruition, for the security and progress of humanity today, and post-WHS in Istanbul.

TURKEY'S OPEN-DOOR POLICY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

İBRAHİM KALIN

*Presidential
Spokesperson*

Turkey will host the first-ever Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul on May 23-24, 2016. Organized under the auspices of the United Nations and to be chaired by the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the summit will address the state of the humanitarian aid system and seek to produce results to alleviate the pain and suffering of millions of people around the world.

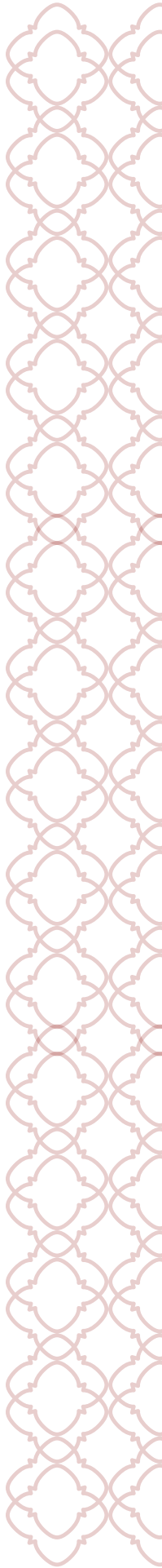
This summit is convened at a time when humanity has been shamed by the way in which the international community has failed to respond to wars, clashes, famines and natural disasters across the globe. According to the U.N., every year around 350 million people are affected by armed clashes, wars, natural disasters and economic crises. As of this year, close to 60 million people have been displaced from their homes and millions have become refugees. They suffer from armed conflicts, lack of basic health, education and any social security.

In Syria alone, more than 11 million Syrians, half of Syria's population, live as refugees and internally displaced people. The scenes of women and children drowning in the cold waters of the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean have made the headlines and galvanized the world public opinion. While there have been some commendable responses to this horrible humanitarian crisis, we are far from dealing with it in a way that befits human dignity

and the sanctity of human life.

This is one of the greatest paradoxes of our age in the sense that the world is richer than it has ever been before in history but also fails utterly to come to the aid of those in need of urgent help. The rich countries of the world consume world's resources dozens of times more than the rest of the world. Some do provide financial aid and the various national and international aid agencies try to help. But the shameful fact is that the current state of humanitarian affairs remains a dark spot in modern history.

The problem is not the lack of material resources and financial means. Our world has enough resources to meet the basic needs of every human being. The problem is the systematic absence of a humane perspective and sense of moral responsibility toward the needy and the less fortunate. The incompetency of the current humanitarian regime also deepens the sense of despair among crisis-stricken people on the one hand, and the aid organizations on the other. We therefore need to develop a two-pronged approach. First of all, the organizational structure of delivering aid will have to be redefined in such a way as to maximize efficiency and coordination. The current humanitarian system cannot cope with the urgent problems of wars and natural disasters and needs a comprehensive update. National governments, international





organizations, local actors, NGOs, the private sector and citizens have to play a bigger role in crisis situations. The international community as a whole ought to provide more support to countries and communities in need to deal with emergency situations.

Secondly and more importantly, a new sense of moral responsibility to help and protect people from wars, famines and natural disasters will have to be instilled. It is a shame that while a part of the world community lives in peace and prosperity, the rest is bogged down in man-made and natural disasters that strip people of their basic humanity. There is no excuse for the death of millions of children in Africa, Asia and the rest of the world from malnutrition and lack of basic health services. Most often than not, the problem lies in the fact that people do not care about others as human beings who deserve the same rights and means as others. When it comes to protecting human dignity, there is no difference between the religion, ethnicity or culture of people. It is our shared responsibility to protect every

human being for the simple fact that they are human beings.

The Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul is expected to address these two main issues and produce action-oriented policy recommendations that are hoped to alleviate the pain and suffering of tens of millions of people around the world.

Lastly, it is only apt that this very first Humanitarian Summit is being held in Turkey because Turkey hosts 3 million refugees from Syria, Iraq and other countries. Since the beginning of the Syrian war, Turkey has shouldered the burden of the refugee crisis almost singlehandedly with little help from the international community. Turkey is committed to continuing its “open-door policy” for the Syrian refugees and others regardless of the aid and support from other countries.

But it is our common moral responsibility to look after our brothers and sisters in humanity.

TURKEY SHINES AT WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

İLNUR ÇEVİK

*Daily Sabah
Columnist*

The first World Humanitarian Summit hosted in Istanbul has been a stark reminder of the plight of hundreds of millions of people around the globe at the hands of tyrants, modern-day colonialists and the rich countries that simply have no care for the needy.

Isn't it sad that a developing economy like Turkey's is the number three humanitarian aid donor in the world after the United States and Britain, whereas there are all those rich countries that should have surpassed Turkey?

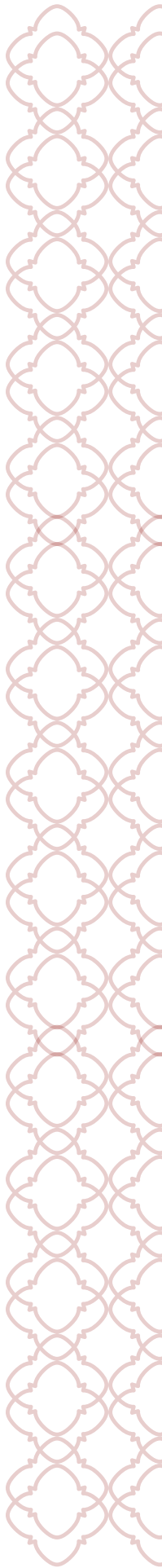
Turkey has spent \$10 billion on paper in four years for the 3 million Syrian migrants who fled their country during the ongoing civil war. In reality, Turkey has spent much more than \$10 billion in tax payer's money and says it is prepared to do everything necessary for the well-being of these migrants. No country in the world would have done anything like it over such an extended period.

Turks have not only allowed their government to spend this money for the migrants, but have also opened their homes and

embraced Syrians in every way possible. In another country, such a presence of migrants would have caused social and political turmoil. This did not happen in Turkey, because throughout history Turks have always sheltered those in trouble. The Ottomans provided shelter to the Jews fleeing Christian brutality, the Republic of Turkey provided safety for German democrats during the Hitler era. Turkey has helped Iraqi Kurds, Yazidis and Afghan migrants in modern times. It is now our turn again to provide help and relief for the Syrians.

Turkish tradition and Islamic values require us to provide shelter to all those in need, irrespective of their religion or race. Besides Turks have deep respect for the Quranic verse that says, "You cannot sleep in peace when your neighbor is craving with hunger." Besides all this, it is a trait of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to rush to the help of the oppressed and needy. So Turkey has done its duty but what about the international community?

Europe preaches supreme values and human dignity, yet we see





how they treat Syrian migrants as well as North African refugees, leading us to reach the conclusion that this is not the “family of civilized nations” that we would like to choose as a role model.

The fact that the nations of the world have not sent their heads of state for the summit indicates how little regard they have for humanitarian issues. But that should not surprise anyone with a bit of common sense. The injustices of the world, colonialism and slavery, are all the products of the so-called developed world. Now the oppressed and the underprivileged are saying their homes and lands have been shed of all the riches and therefore, now they

all have to head toward the West to claim what was taken from them.

The world powers cannot hide behind their veto powers in the United Nations Security Council and try to ward off the demands of those who feel they have been subjected to injustices. The U.N. Security Council's vetoes cannot halt the exodus of millions of migrants seeking a better way of life.

It is high time the rich of the world started to attend to the plight of the masses of the needy, oppressed and underprivileged people. Or else no summit or forum can save them in the long run.

LET'S SPEAK OUT AND EXPLORE SOLUTIONS

KEREM KINIK

*President,
Turkish Red
Crescent (TRC)*

The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), a 148-year-old humanitarian organization and a strong member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, is an important global actor and often the first responder to human-made or natural emergencies globally. Among those, Pakistan, Georgia, Haiti, Somalia, Libya and Nepal are only some examples.

Over the last decade, the TRC has provided humanitarian assistance in multiple sectors in 137 countries and currently has ongoing programs in five countries: Somalia, Iraq, Pakistan, Palestine/Gaza and Bangladesh. In addition, the TRC is implementing projects in partnership with the local National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in another 10 countries. At the domestic level, the TRC plays an important role in national disaster management, blood donation and social services in Turkey. It has the capacity to provide shelter and nutrition support to 300,000 people in case of emergencies with eight regional and 25 local disaster management centers and 700 local branches. For nutrition, more qualified, quicker service is ensured with Mobile Bakery and Mobile Kitchen and Mobile Catering vehicles. Since 2011, as an auxiliary to the government, the TRC continues to

support Syrians arriving to Turkey in camps and urban areas by implementing large-scale programs in shelter, food, nutrition, education and social integration. The TRC assisted the government in the establishment of 25 camps for Syrians and provides food as well as non-food aid. Within the scope of the Syria Crisis Humanitarian Response, the TRC developed an innovative cash-based assistance model with an electronic voucher called "KızılayCard" that provides monthly cash-support to beneficiaries. The added value of this new model is that KızılayCard helps refugees develop self-reliance and self-esteem. Beneficiaries no longer see themselves as refugees or foreigners but as guests in a neighboring country who are free to make their own decisions without being constrained by an outer control mechanism. Today, more than 250,000 Syrians in Turkey benefit from the KızılayCard program and receive monthly cash support to cover their food needs. International organizations in Lebanon and Jordan have taken the KızılayCard program as a model and have started to implement it for Syrians.

In addition to livelihood support through KızılayCard, the TRC implements the Community Center Project, another large-scale activity

to ensure that host and arrival communities live in harmony and peace. TRC Community Centers established in Istanbul, Şanlıurfa, Konya, Ankara and Kilis provide referral and health support and vocational and language courses to more than 100,000 Syrian men, women and youth. Both the KızılayCard and Community Center projects are dynamic and will continue to expand in the months to come.

Along with other national organizations, the TRC also helps strengthen Turkey's position in global humanitarian action, now ranking third in the world based on the amount of money spent on humanitarian aid. It is important to note that it ranks first based on GDP; in other words: "The most generous country." This acceleration and momentum in Turkey's role in global humanitarian action led U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to propose Turkey as the host of the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. Today, the TRC is actively participating in the World Humanitarian Summit, bringing together over 5,000 people, including heads of state, government agencies, academics, the U.N., NGOs and the private sector. The Turkish Red Crescent was involved in the consultation process for this summit and now will send its messages and share its experiences and innovative models with the international community. Also, the TRC is putting special emphasis on following up commitments and messages that come out of this unique event to ensure it remains engaged in the process.

On the margin of the World Humanitarian Summit, the Turkish Red Crescent is hosting three side events, displaying a multi-purpose exhibition stand and providing soups

With the assistance and help of the Turkish Red Crescent, Syrian refugees are developing self-reliance and self-esteem and no longer see themselves as refugees or foreigners but as guests in a neighboring country.



from various continents to participants. The soups are from countries where the Turkish Red Crescent provides humanitarian assistance, and participants will have their soup in a tent setting. The side events focus on migration, child protection and increased solidarity among the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in OIC Countries.

Having pointed out national and international experiences and the role of the TRC in the summit, this gathering will be an important opportunity to speak out and explore solutions for the most pressing challenges for the humanitarian organizations in today's world.

SERDAR ÇAM

*President,
Turkish
Cooperation and
Coordination
Agency (TİKA)*

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT: A MEETING TO END ALL MEETINGS

The World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Istanbul on May 23-24 will be one of the most inclusive and high-level platforms ever dedicated to revolutionizing the global humanitarian system in a way to better serve humanity and better keep up with the challenges in our changing world.

The summit is of great significance both in terms of its content and timing. U.N. data shows that there are more than 125 million people who are in need of humanitarian aid and that the number of people affected by conflicts and disasters has almost doubled in the last 10 years. It is obvious that business cannot continue as usual and drastic measures need to be taken immediately to reverse this trend.

In addition to its focus on effectiveness, inclusiveness, prevention and building resilience, the summit will draw attention to the synergy and link between humanitarian assistance and cooperation in development. The key is to establish a coordinated approach between humanitarian action providing relief to immediate suffering and development cooperation aimed at solving the root causes, supporting sustainable solutions, preventing crises and building resilient capacities.

With the advances in technology, we are able to reach more people in crisis situations much more quicker than in the past. Despite this, the ever growing number and scale of conflicts and disasters leaves a huge gap between international

humanitarian efforts and people in need. Unfortunately, as the international community, we still have major room for improvement when it comes to objective priorities, coordinated efforts to combine resources, pre-emptive planning and implementation. The shortcomings of the international humanitarian system brings along the issue of legitimacy.

Research shows that by allocating existing resources more smartly we can make an important contribution to alleviating some of the current global crises. By preventing food loss and waste in the developed world we can make a difference in food-related crises in other parts of the world. This was highlighted during Turkey's time in the G20 presidency in 2015 by including food loss and waste among the priority areas.

TURKEY AND TİKA'S APPROACH: SINCERITY AT THE CORE

The principle that people should be at the center of any cooperation and aid effort has always guided Turkey's approach. The summit will also stress this and place humanity at the focus of the principles and the road map that will be put forward.

As the main implementing actor of Turkish development cooperation, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) operates with a focus on implementation, sincerity, effectiveness, flexibility and inclusiveness free from preoccupations such as visibility and self-interest. Indeed, TİKA's cooperation philosophy runs parallel to the traditional foundation culture of our civilization.



It is based on sincerity, selfless solidarity and assistance to those in need without discrimination, any ulterior motive or seeking personal gain in return.

TİKA's program in Somalia is one of the striking examples of Turkish modality of cooperation. It is based on a systemic approach involving coordinated action from a wide array of actors, including governmental and nongovernmental humanitarian aid agencies – with TİKA as the official development cooperation agency – the private sector and game-changing initiatives such as scheduled Turkish Airlines (THY) flights. As stated by Somali authorities, Turkey's intervention "changed the fate of Somalia."

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM: RHETORIC INTO ACTION

The challenges of the 21st century transcend boundaries. As the international community, we should not be content with managing humanitarian crises. Effective and innovative common policies for crisis prevention and resilience building are of prime importance. Only when all parties, tradi-

tional and emerging donors, humanitarian and developmental actors, civil society, the private sector and politicians combine forces for this common cause can we reverse the grim trend in the humanitarian field, reach sustainable development goals (SDGs) and eradicate poverty.

By hosting the World Humanitarian Summit, Turkey is demonstrating political support at the highest level for its agenda.

It is our hope that decisions taken at the summit will transform into concrete action as soon as possible. As the international community, we have to act sincerely and not waste time at endless meetings that do not result in concrete and effective intervention. Otherwise we will continue to meet at fancy hotels and produce excellent reports and policies on paper, but still fail millions who struggle to survive and count on our prompt action. We have to transform rhetoric into real action at once. We are accountable to all children, women and men experiencing humanitarian crises.

If we want to bring about systemic improvement in the humanitarian field we have to be ready and willing to sacrifice some of our own wealth and comfort in exchange of healing the wounds of those who suffer the horrors of conflict, terrorism and disasters, which are unimaginable in some parts of the world.

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan, the spirit of solidarity, charity and selflessness should guide us in our humanitarian efforts, enable us to see our own shortcomings in this field and give us the strength that we need to overcome them promptly for the greater good of humanity.

The World Humanitarian Summit is indeed a historic opportunity, and one that we cannot risk missing. It is high time to start to act together, now!

RESTORING HUMANITY WITH COMPASSION: TURKEY AND THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

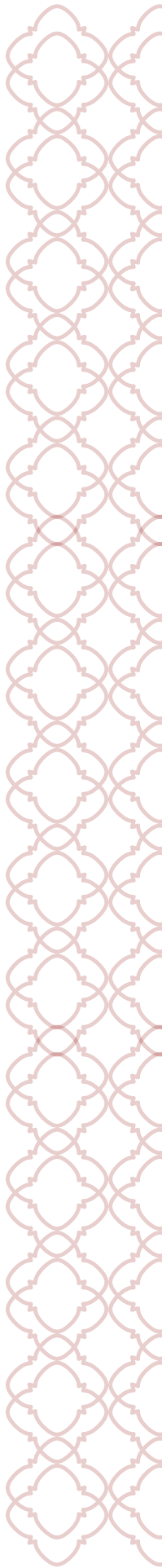
SADIK ÜNAY

*Daily Sabah
Columnist*

In the contemporary world of increasing civil wars, instability and human suffering, perhaps one crucial area is missing in the complex institutional network of global governance concern mechanisms for effective coordination of humanitarian support and disaster management. A plethora of conflict hotspots in the world continues to perpetually produce dramatic news of people losing their lives, needing medical treatment and shelter, refugees fleeing their countries for basic safety and generations lost in the midst of ethnic, sectarian or territorial wars. Especially with the reversal of the Arab revolutions, the collapse of political authority in various Middle Eastern and African countries and flourishing of extremist organizations, humanity has started to witness the highest level of human suffering since World War II.

Although various institutions under the rubric of the United Nations system have designated mandates to oversee coordination initiatives among national mechanisms of humanitarian assistance and crisis management, the explosion of civil

and international conflicts as well as massive waves of refugee flows towards Europe sent strong warning signals. Meanwhile, the apparent inaction of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, led by the United States and Russia, to ongoing humanitarian calamities triggered added concerns for the aggravation of the humanitarian agenda. Therefore, it was a highly commendable act by Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon to call for humanity - people's safety, dignity and the right to thrive - to be placed at the heart of global policy making. Ban, put forward his comprehensive "Agenda for Humanity" that includes preventing and ending prolonged conflicts, ensuring the observance of rules of war, leaving no one behind in humanitarian assistance and developing innovative strategies for humanitarian and emergency support. If implemented, these priorities necessitate a more holistic approach to conflict prevention and crisis management through addressing root causes of violent conflicts, protecting civilians and health workers from the destruc-



The international community has failed in the case of the Syrian civil war as the number of refugees increased exponentially.



the selection of Turkey to host this crucial summit, the prevalent global image that as a “compassionate country” hosting around 3 million refugees that fled the civil war in Syria became undoubtedly effective in the process. As to the main themes of the summit “restoring humanity” and “shared responsibility,” Turkey has been forcing its financial, social and physical capacities and undertook humanitarian responsibility to support the refugees from Syria and a myriad of conflict zones, orphans in Africa, and disaster-struck people in East Asia.

tion of wars, providing additional support to countries hosting refugees, reinforcing local and international systems of natural disaster management and speeding up decision making within the cumbersome U.N. system. The secretary general deserves appreciation for taking the initiative to bring together all national, international, civil and academic actors dealing with conflict prevention, peace building, humanitarian support and disaster/crisis management on a global platform.

The first ever “World Humanitarian Summit” takes place next week May 23-24 in Istanbul with the participation of 125 national delegations and 50 heads of state or government, along with 5,000 international dignitaries representing different public and private institutions and NGOs. As for

Through flagship organizations, such as the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay), Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA) and Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), Turkey developed a comprehensive institutional capacity in humanitarian assistance and excelled as the most generous international donor in relation to her per capita GDP. TİKA’s annual humanitarian assistance budget has reached \$3.5 billion through operations in 142 countries. AFAD has intervened into natural disasters and humanitarian crises in more than 40 countries and the Turkish Red Crescent became the second strongest humanitarian assistance institution with a capacity to support 300,000 people with emergency food and shelter. Our sincere hope is that the first ever “World Humanitarian Summit” in Istanbul constitutes a milestone for more effective and systematic international collaboration for urgent humanitarian assistance and disaster/crisis management.

KILIÇ BUĞRA KANAT*Daily Sabah
Columnist*

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT IN ISTANBUL

This week, Istanbul is hosting one of the most significant summits on human security since the end of the Cold War. The first World Humanitarian Summit will focus on issues related to humanitarianism, humanitarian assistance, crisis preparedness and development. The timing is extremely important as the world is witnessing the most significant humanitarian disasters and calamities since the end of World War II. The conflicts, civil wars, number of refugees and internally displaced people and the extent of all of these crises tests the international community and international organizations vis-a-vis capability and capacity in a fast changing, global system.

The institutions that were established by the community of states in order to deal with these significant humanitarian challenges seems to be outdated and insufficient and fails to handle today's problems. These challenges have become more obvious with the increasing number of crisis areas in the last few years. The international community failed terribly in conflict prevention, crisis management and humanitarian assistance in these areas. This failure has become more visible especially in the case of the Syrian civil war. The international community mostly reacted with standard operating procedures as the number of refugees increased exponentially in neigh-

boring countries and as major parts of Syria filled with internally displaced people.

Part of this failure is as a result of the evolving international system. This unstable system made the system's actors focus on traditional security concerns, including changing balances of power, shifting alliances and power rivalries. The human security dimension in this fluid international system, however, was mostly neglected. As the existing international organizations and institutions became obsolete and insufficient, the international community failed to come up with innovative solutions to deal with the existing problems. Another dimension of this failure is not about the capacity, but more about the willingness of international actors to contribute to the alleviation of humanitarian crises. Despite their contributions to international organizations' budgets, many of the more developed countries showed reluctance to get involve in these humanitarian relief efforts around the world. The geographical distance from these crisis areas was considered as a cushion from the impacts of humanitarian disasters. The disinterest in and lack of sympathy of many Western countries for Syrian refugees is in part a result of this feeling among some policy makers in these countries. However, the recent refugee flow shows that if some people are



under threat in this global world it ends up impacting everybody. This overdue realization of crisis in Syria has made the international community take some steps to prevent the deterioration of the problem, but at this point it seems insufficient.

The World Humanitarian summit will be the first major gathering that will become a forum for discussions of these issues. There will be five issues on the agenda of the summit, including preventing and ending conflict, respecting the rules of war, leaving no one behind, working differently to end need and investing in humanity. The short-, medium- and long-term solutions to these problems and challenges will be discussed in different sessions by representatives of public and private institutions. Of course

it is not a coincidence that this meeting is taking place in Turkey. Turkey has been one of the most generous countries in terms of humanitarian assistance in recent years. Especially since the beginning of the war in Syria, the Turkish government has spent billions of dollars and taken in almost 3 million refugees fleeing from the persecution of Bashar Assad's regime and DAESH without any discrimination. So far its generosity has been appreciated and recognized by almost all international organizations and governments in the world, and through hosting this summit as an exemplar country involved in different humanitarian crises from the Rohingyas in Myanmar to Somalia it will fulfill another major responsibility of the international community.

FATİH ŞEMSETTİN IŞIK

Daily Sabah
Reporter

AFAD PRESIDENT: TURKEY ACTS WITH HUMAN SENSITIVITY IN HUMANITARIAN WORK

The Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) is an organization that has shone through during the Syrian crisis by providing and administering refugee camps along with helping them integrate into Turkish society. The organization is also leading the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, which is the first global summit on humanitarian issues of this size and scope.

Daily Sabah spoke with AFAD President Dr. Fuat Oktay about the two-day summit and Turkey's role in overcoming the current global humanitarian crises. He said that Turkey will share its experiences and practices set an example to the world at the summit, and added that Turkey puts nothing but human sensitivity at the center of its humanitarian initiatives.

■DS: Turkey is hosting the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul as the first global organization on humanitarian initiatives of this size and scope. What is the importance of this summit amid the ongoing regional and global humanitarian crises?

Turkey is hosting the World Humanitarian Summit, which is to be held for the first time in history in a period when humanitarian crises such as epidemics and mass migration have exceeded the borders of countries. The global humanitarian aid system has raised the alarm.

The summit is being held at a time

when human suffering is at its highest since World War II due to various reasons such as natural disasters and armed conflicts. Today, about 60 million people have been de-territorialized due to conflicts and violence while 218 million people are aggrieved by natural disasters annually. The cost of these disasters to the world economy is more than \$300 billion.

During the Syrian civil war, which is currently the top agenda topic all over the world and which constitutes the greatest humanitarian crisis humanity has seen since World War II, at least 400,000 people have been killed. Within this period, 13.5 million people in Syria, of which the total population is 20 million, have grown needy and indigent. While some 6.6 million have been displaced, some 4.8 million have taken refuge in neighboring countries.

■DS: How can Turkey, as the host country, set an example for solutions to these humanitarian problems?

Today, Turkey is the country hosting the greatest number of refugees in the world. With the contribution of AFAD, a new life has been offered to Syrian refugees fleeing from the war. All Syrian refugees are provided with health services free of charge while Syrian children are sent to schools in order to prevent a lost generation.

At the 26 refugee camps founded by AFAD for Syrian refugees, all physical, social and psychological



needs of refugees are met. Having established a new standard in the temporary refugee services provided in cases of disasters and emergencies, AFAD's Sheltering Center Management System (AFKEN) received an award for the best public service from the United Nations in 2015. All the basic necessities are provided at AFAD's refugee centers and, more than that, democratic elections are held, vocational training courses are organized and some campaigns are run to raise awareness of various social problems such as child marriage.

Turkey has funded a source in accordance with U.N. standards corresponding to \$9.5 billion with an aim to relieve the wounds of Syrian refugees and enable their re-integration into normal life. However, the total contribution of the international community has been only \$462 million. In other words, when the entire world spends TL 1 (\$0.34) for aggrieved people, Turkey spends about TL 20.

According to 2014 Global Humanitarian Aid Report, Turkey ranks third in the world

in contributing to emergency humanitarian aid compared to its domestic income. According to the same report, Turkey has become the third-highest spending country in humanitarian aid delivered over the last three years.

As part of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Donor Support Group, which is the leading institution with a critical role in determining the world's humanitarian aid strategy and distributing and directing humanitarian aid across the world, Turkey has a role in determining the world's humanitarian aid strategy.

Our country also took part in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism on May 6, 2015, thanks to AFAD's successful work in the field of disaster preparedness and prevention.

■DS: What will be the tangible short- and long-term results of this summit considering the growing humanitarian crisis in Syria?

During the World Humanitarian Summit, which is to determine the world's future humanitarian aid strategies and policies, the main agenda topics will include sharing the burden of the Syrian crisis on an international scale, establishing a sustainable international aid system, infusing our open-door policy to other countries and raising awareness of and consciousness concerning refugees.

The summit is to be hosted along with the secretary-general of the U.N. and will draw world leaders together with the parties affected by crises for the first time. The summit seeks answers to urgent questions regarding the future of the system with the participation of representatives from various fields that play major roles in the humanitarian system, including nongovernmental organizations and the private sector. Turkey is going to share its experiences and implementations to set an example to the world with the international public throughout the summit.

Being of major importance as a critical global meeting, just like the 1993 World Human Rights Conference, the 2016 World Humanitarian

Summit will constitute a historic step for the international community's common concerns and targets.

■DS: Which specific areas will be discussed at the summit?

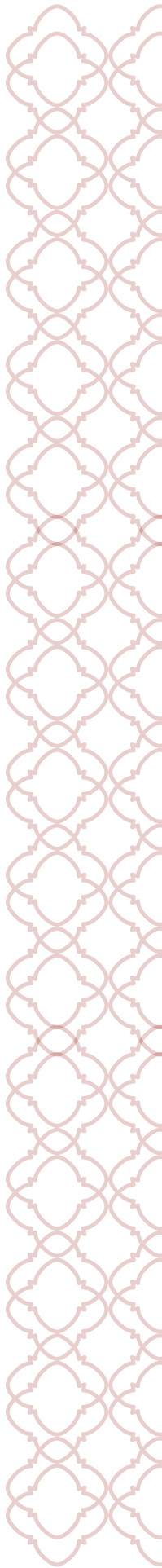
After the opening ceremony, some leading figures will speak on behalf of Turkey and the U.N. Speeches by U.N. goodwill ambassadors and representatives of groups affected by crises will follow.

The sessions at which global leaders will declare their obligations to progress and the agenda for humanity document will last two days.

During the summit, some seven meetings will be held in which various challenges in the context of humanitarian crises will be handled and leaders will be able to express their undertakings for solutions of the problems in a more explicit way.

Some other meetings, which are estimated to be conducted on a more technical scale, will be organized with regard to the 12 titles comprising other aspects of the global humanitarian agenda.

In addition, the summit will include



various briefings, seminars, workshops and panels organized by governments, international and regional institutions, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and other actors.

■DS: What are the current problems that hinder dealing with global humanitarian problems comprehensively?

Across our southern border, the greatest humanitarian tragedy since World War II is going on. In a world where distances do not matter any longer, it is not fair for our country to shoulder the crisis on its own only because it is across from our border. The international community is required to share Turkey's burden and other countries neighboring Syria in the name of humanity.

About 80 percent of humanitarian crises in the world are caused by conflicts, like the Syrian crisis. Consequently, in order to relieve the pain of millions of innocent civilians, political solutions are needed rather than humanitarian solutions. That is what Turkey argues.

■DS: Beyond this summit, what else can Turkey do in terms of relieving humanitarian crises around the world?

As German Chancellor Angela Merkel recently said, Turkey does not just lecture on humanitarian aid. It has been practicing more than it says it does in many different fields. With its human-centered diplomacy

and with a culture emphasizing that one cannot be relieved until we all help others in need, Turkey is lending a hand to everyone in need around the world while opening its doors to more than 3 million refugees and sharing what it has with them.

Lending a hand to hundreds of thousands of people aggrieved by humanitarian crises and natural disasters in Gaza, Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti and Myanmar through AFAD, Turkey is today in a position to give aid, not receive it.

Having sent the first humanitarian aid package to the Philippines after the typhoon disaster in 2013, AFAD has provided humanitarian aid to 51 countries on five continents over the last five years. It has also participated in search and rescue operations.

In Somalia, the aid provided by Turkey through AFAD outdid the conventional humanitarian aid notion common in Africa so far. On the Horn of Africa Turkey has displayed a new and successful humanitarian aid model that introduced working in the field, forming good relations and appealing to people's hearts.

In all countries we head to, we are motivated by this humane approach. Turkey acts with humane sensitivities while delivering humanitarian aid. Thanks to that, we form bridges of friendship with the people we help.

MORAL AND HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION IN TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY

FADI FARASIN

*Political
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Humanity is witnessing the worst level of suffering since the end of World War II. People's desire for dignity and democracy has been crushed in the Middle East and elsewhere and the world has decided to turn a blind eye to the atrocities and war crimes committed against Palestinians and the people of Arakan. Rather than standing up for morals and values and protecting the vulnerable and oppressed, Western powers have decided to treat morals and politics separately. It is in these desperate and dark times that we have seen the emergence of Turkey's foreign policy grounded in the principles of human rights, morality and justice. This foreign policy gives the people of this region and the entire world a glimmer of hope and a promise of salvation. Turkey has been spearheading the challenge to the unjust international order. There is something profoundly wrong with a system that allows any of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to block the will of all the other nations on earth for no other reason but to serve their selfish national interests. This is why President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's mantra, "the world is greater than five," has resonated with masses around the globe and has become a rallying cry for people who want to reform the United Nations and its Security Council to become more democratic, just and inclusive.

THE WORLD IS GREATER THAN FIVE

It is not just "the world is greater than five" that struck a chord world-wide, but also Erdoğan's heroic "One minute!" statement at Davos, which shocked and awakened the sleeping conscious of the world. Erdoğan courageously condemned Israel's gruesome, December 2008 to January 2009 offensive on Gaza and castigated Israel and its then President Shimon Perez for acting like a child-killing machine. After the military coup in Egypt in 2013 that overthrew the only democratically elected president of Egypt, Mohamed Morsi, and suspended the Egyptian constitution, Turkey once again demonstrated that it is the international voice of democracy and freedom. Ankara condemned the military coup and continues to criticize it to this day while Western powers pay no more than lip service to the values of democracy and at the same time opportunistically continuing to deal with the instigators of the military coup, welcoming the leader of the military coup, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, in their capitals and signing weapons deals with the Egyptian military. Turkey's defense of human rights and denouement of military aggression is not limited to its region, but extends globally. Turkey was critical of Russia's aggression against Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine

and the forceful and illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014. Turkey also continues to disapprove, albeit guardedly, of China's violation of Uyghur human rights in East Turkestan.

Turkey has also been a leader in promoting harmony and enhancing greater understanding among diverse world civilizations and has been proactive in trying to diffuse mutual suspicion, fear and tension that have been accumulating since the begging of this millennium between the Muslim world and the West. Turkey and Spain in 2005 jointly launched the Alliance of Civilization initiative to garner a broad coalition to foster cross-cultural tolerance and understanding. This initiative was then adopted by the U.S. secretary-general to become a U.N. initiative.

THE SPIRIT OF CIVILIZATION IN ANATOLIA

Not a long time ago Turkey was a recipient of international humanitarian aid, but since the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) swept into power in 2002, the picture has dramatically changed and Turkey has emerged as a major international humanitarian aid donor. According to the Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Report 2015, Turkey is the third-largest donor by volume and the second-largest by percentage of gross national income (GNI) when taking its response to the Syrian refugee crisis into account. Turkey has responded to a large number of human crises that have struck around the world, but the highest profile and most telling humanitarian intervention was in Somalia through direct presence on the ground when many other international actors were absent. Somalis still remember with great admiration the summer day in August 2011 when Erdoğan ignored the perception

of Somalia's capital Mogadishu as a dangerous, no-go zone and traveled there accompanied by his wife, daughter, senior Cabinet members and a large delegation of representatives from nongovernmental organizations and business leaders. The visit helped propel the plight of the Somali people to the top of the world agenda and ended the two decades when no non-African world leader visited Mogadishu.

In its response to the Syrian refugee crisis, Turkey has provided the world with a lesson in morals and humanitarianism. Turkey has taken in 2.75 million Syrian refugees, according to the numbers from the United Nations high Commissioner for Refugees, thus making it the biggest refugee-hosting nation in the world despite the steep economic, social and security cost it has accrued. Contrast this with the European Union, with its 28 member states, that has cracked under the pressure of welcoming 1 million Syrian refugees last year and has expended every effort to transfer the burden to other countries and dissolve itself from the legal and ethical responsibilities to people escaping the carnage of war and violence. It is also important to note that Turkey's humanitarian foreign policy is not limited to its neighbors or the Islamic world, but is truly blind to ethnicity, religion and sect, extending to faraway places such as the Philippines, among many others.

Turkey's moralpolitik is a refreshing departure from the prevailing realpolitik in international relations. It also serves as an inspiration to other countries to ground their foreign policy in the universal values of ethics and humanity. If other countries follow Turkey's lead then we can aspire to a world characterized by harmony, peace and coexistence.

